



# RURAL DELIGHT



February 2019

Volume 79 • Issue 2 • News from Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.,  
PO Box 438, Mahanomen, MN 56557 • www.wildriceelectric.com

When you become a member of Wild Rice Electric, you become a member of a cooperative. Wild Rice Electric is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative that allocates excess revenue to its members as “capital credits”.

© NRECA



1 Wild Rice Electric Cooperative tracks how much electricity you use and pay for throughout the year



2 At year end, Wild Rice Electric assesses the finances to determine if there is excess revenue called margins.  
(Margins = Revenue - Expenses)

## How do Capital Credits Work?

Because members are owners, margins are returned in the form of capital credits. In order to keep receiving capital credits earned, it is important that you keep your current address up-to-date with Wild Rice Electric. To see if your name is on the un-cashed capital credit check list, visit [wildriceelectric.com](http://wildriceelectric.com) and click on the Capital Credits Link on the Member Advantages Page or call our office at 1-800-244-5709.

3

3 Based on your energy consumption, Wild Rice Electric allocates the margins as capital credits to its members.



4

4 As financial conditions permit, your board of directors approves payout or retirement of the capital credits to the active members in the form of a bill credit and a check to those inactive members



5

5 Retired capital credits are credited / paid out on the statement that is mailed out the end of July





# OVER THE MANAGER'S DESK

AROUND THE CO-OP ...

STEVE HAAVEN, CEO

## 2018 A Good Year

The end of the year is a logical time to reflect on accomplishments of the past as well as plan for the New Year ahead. A review of various indicators show the Co-operative experienced a very good year in 2018. Financial indicators reveal an increase in kilowatt hour sales contributed to record annual revenue. Complementing the increase in sales were no major unexpected surprises in costs including stabilized wholesale power rates paid to our supplier Minnkota Power Cooperative. The purchase of electricity for resale comprises approximately 70% of the overall cost of doing business. Obviously any change to that component impacts the overall financial picture. The result was a solid year end margin leaving the co-op in a healthy position meeting or exceeding financial requirements of lenders. As member-owners you do share in those year-end margins based upon your patronage. Actual numbers for revenue, expenses and margins are pending final numbers until year end reports and audit has been completed.

Very important is the service provided to member owners. A look at service interruption statistics verifies 2018 was a good year in that regard as well. The average member, on average, had electric service available over 99.9% of the time. We're extremely pleased to report all of the work completed was done safely with no major injuries reported. A primary goal is to assure workers return home safe and sound at the end of every work day. Many of the hours worked happen on week-ends, holidays and or during late night and oftentimes not in the best of conditions.

The 2019 Budget presented to the Board of Directors at their December meeting included several items of interest as we plan for operations in the New Year. Expanded efforts will be made to clear right-of-way areas of growth to improve both reliability and safety. It is estimated nearly \$1 million will be spent

under contract to cut, trim and spray under lines as well as to clear lines by our own crews. Much of the time Wild Rice crew cutting is required following strong winds or icing conditions in order to restore service. It is therefore critical to proactively work to clear those areas in advance. You are encouraged to contact the co-op should you have trees growing into your lines.

A major project nearing completion is the replacement of the automated meter information system. Substantial progress was made in 2018 with an estimated 1,000 meters left to be changed at year end. The remaining meters are the most challenging since many are in place to serve off peak heating systems requiring entry into homes and businesses. In total nearly 20,000 meters and related automated meter information (AMI) will be deployed at a cost in excess of \$3.5 million. The changeover will bring enhanced advantages including greater usage and demand information used for both billing and engineering purposes, automatic disconnect and reconnect capabilities and a source for quicker notification of outage situations. If you will recall the previous automated meter reading system, known as the Turtle, was deemed obsolete with equipment or software support no longer available. That system served the cooperative for about twenty years.



## Winter Safety

Winter weather brings various outdoor activities. A very popular form of family entertainment, depending upon snow conditions, is snowmobiling. Riding on snow covered paths can be a great way to enjoy what mother nature has to offer. When riding I encourage you to always keep safety in mind by driving at moderate speeds and watching out for power poles and guy wires. Many of the right-of-way paths provide nice, open paths for travel but keep in mind those areas are cleared for reason. Poles, transformer boxes, switch panels and guy guards are located along those

paths. Guy wires are typically marked by reflective yellow guards but do not take that for granted since they will fade over time or can come off. Should you notice downed or sagging lines, damaged guy wires or missing guards, or other safety concerns please contact us. Remember if you do come across a downed line stay at minimum fifty feet away and assume it is energized. All of these reminders hold true no matter what time of year or weather conditions.



## Wild Rice Annual Meeting

Plans are well underway for the Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting scheduled for Tuesday March 26th at the Mahanomen High School. I would like to emphasize Tuesday which is a change from the historical Thursday evenings celebrated in the past. A conflict with use of the Mahanomen School is the reason for the change. Please pass the word onto your neighbors and friends. We strongly encourage you to participate in your right as member owners to attend to be updated on what's happening at your co-op. The evening provides a great meal, socializing, fantastic entertainment and a short business meeting. An important part of the meeting is the election of directors to represent your interests in governance. If you are not able to attend the annual meeting please be aware voting for directors by mail is an option.

The 2019 Nominating Committee met on Wednesday January 16th to name a slate of candidates to be placed on the ballot for this year's election. Terms expire for the following director positions: District 1 – David Hamre (1 year) and Jeff Nornes (3 year), District 2 – Greg Lavoy (3 year) and District 3 – Gary Bergan (3 year). Please look elsewhere in the issue of the Rural Delight for the Annual Meeting Agenda and the Nominating Committee's report listing the slate of nominees for the various positions. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Stay safe and warm.



## High School Juniors & Seniors!

The deadline to apply is quickly approaching for the 55th Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington D.C., June 15-20, contact Wild Rice Electric or click on the 2019 Youth Tour banner on our website at [www.wildriceelectric.com](http://www.wildriceelectric.com) for an application. Applications must be submitted by March, 8th.

Make 2019 the year you experience the monuments dedicated to our country's leaders and heroes. Let your voice be heard and get your questions answered.

Save the Date  
**Tuesday, March 26**

for the **79<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Meeting**  
of the Members

and come

**VOTE**

at the **Mahnomen** High School gymnasium

### Notice of Annual Meeting

for Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mahnomen, Minnesota

The annual meeting of the members of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the Mahnomen High School Auditorium, 209 First Street SW, in the City of Mahnomen, Minnesota at 6:30 P.M. on March 26, 2019, to take action on the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of four directors of the Cooperative. Two directors shall be elected in District 1 - one for a term of one year and one for a term of three years; one director shall be elected from District 2 for a term of three years; and one director from District 3 for a term of three years. A member who is absent from a member's meeting may vote by mail on a ballot (an "Absentee Ballot"). Absentee Ballots are available by request. A properly executed Absentee Ballot must be received on or before 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, to be counted as the vote of the absent member at the meeting.
3. All other business which may come before the meeting and adjournment thereof.

Dated at Mahnomen, Minnesota on January 29, 2019.

**Mark Habedank, Secretary**  
**Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Mahnomen, Minnesota 56557**

### Proof of Mailing

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF MAHNOMEN

Mark Habedank, being first duly sworn, on oath, deposes and says that he is duly elected, qualified and acting Secretary of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.; that on January 29, 2019, he caused to be mailed to each member of the Cooperative, a notice of the annual meeting of the members of the Cooperative by having the notice published in a periodical, published by and on behalf of the Cooperative which is mailed to each and every member monthly, and that the attached is a true and correct copy of said notice of said meeting as aforesaid.

**Mark Habedank, Secretary**  
**Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Mahnomen, Minnesota 56557**



## Cogeneration Notification to Members

In order to comply with Minnesota Statute 216B.164 and the final published rules of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC), Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers which satisfy the conditions and become a qualifying facility. Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any disputes over interconnection, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the MPUC. For further information contact:

WILD RICE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.  
PO Box 438,  
Mahnomen MN 56557  
Phone: (218) 935-2517 or  
1-800-244-5709

# Ads

## For Sale

- 10 Cord Boxelder split & dry, \$100 cord you haul, 218-935-5576.
- Parts for outdoor wood furnace hot water system, coil heat exchanger, blower, circulating pump. Sears Craftsman 10" radial arm saw, 218-935-5798.
- Z440 Arctic Cat Snowmobile, \$200, 218-935-5276.
- 2000 Ford F-350 V10, 141,000 miles auto, w/ newly installed hide away 5th wheel, excellent condition, \$6,500, 218-431-0442.
- Cab for a 1066 IHC tractor. Cab and hood for 1976 truck, 218-584-5422, Twin Valley.
- 2- 10.00 x 20 grip tires mounted on rims w/ new tubes, tires have less than 200 miles on them. Large sheets of dark colored glass, make offer. Call evening's lv message, 218-847-4017.
- Smokeless indoor grill controlled by temp, \$15. T-Fal Opti Electric Grill, \$50, both in excellent condition, 218-847-8623.



## State law for active duty military personnel

State law offers active military personnel additional payment options for their electric bills. The law covers disconnection, payment arrangements, appeal and annual notice to cooperative members. Similar to the state's Cold Weather Rule, an application must be completed and income guidelines exist. It's available for active duty military personnel, deployed or a permanent duty station change.

2006 Cherokee Tomahawk aluminum 3 horse trailer w/rear tack. Complete w/ living quarters, gas & electric. Excellent. 218-431-0174.

Alaskan type snow-shoes, like new \$150, or trade for gun, pay diff in cash, 701-293-1295.

Very good condition couch, \$90, no pets or smoking, 218-847-9087.

2 person black collapsible fishhouse & 5 in ice auger powered by 12 volt battery. All very good condition 218-439-3099 or 701-306-7526.

95 Polaris Sport snowmobile, black w/ reverse, \$950 or best offer, 218-790-1175.

## To Give Away

Window 39x54, suitable for out-building, 218-574-2295.

## Wanted

22-250 or 270 Ruger M77 older model w/ a large safety, must be in very good condition, 218-850-0431

25-100 horsepower tractor, 3 pt digger & disc, flat bed & pickup trailer, grain drill, fishing boat, aluminum jon boat, fence posts & wire, 218-945-6646.

Yamaha Sno-Scout Snowmobile from 80s or 90s not the new version they started making a few years ago, 218-375-3091.

## Our Ad Policy

- All ads must be 30 words or less.
- Ads will be abbreviated at the coop's discretion.
- No real estate or commercial ads will be accepted.
- Ads are published for members at no charge as space permits on a first-come, first served basis. Unpublished ads will not be carried over.
- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.
- Members may submit only one ad per issue.
- Ads must be resubmitted to run an additional month.
- Ads must be typed or in clear readable print. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- You can submit your ad by mail, email, fax or drop off in office. Phone ads will not be accepted.
- Fax ads to . . . 218-935-2519
- Email ads to . . . info@wildriceelectric.com
- Mail ads to . . . Wild Rice Electric P.O. Box 438 Mahnomen, MN 56557

## Energy Assistance Programs

### Becker or Mahnomen County

**Mahube Community Council**  
PO Box 747  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502  
218-847-1385

**Mahube Community Council**  
PO Box 76  
Mahnomen, MN 56557  
218-935-5022

**Energy Assistance Program**  
3303 US Hwy 59  
Waubun, MN 56589  
218-473-2711

### Becker County Social Services

712 MN Ave  
Detroit Lakes MN 56501  
218-847-5628

### Mahnomen County Social Services

311 North Main  
PO Box 460  
Mahnomen, MN 56557  
218-935-2568

**E. Polk County Inter County Community Council**  
PO Box 189  
Oklee, MN 56742

Phone: 218-796-5144 or  
1-888-778-4008

### Polk County Social Services

612 N Broadway, RM 302  
Crookston, MN 56716  
218-281-3127

### Clearwater County

**Clearwater Social Services**  
PO Box X  
Bagley, MN 56621  
218-694-6164

**W. Polk County or Norman County Tri-Valley Opportunity Council**

1407 Erskine St

Crookston, MN 56716  
Phone: 1-866-264-3729 or  
218-281-9080

### Norman County Social Services

15 2nd Ave E  
Ada, MN 56510  
218-784-5400

### If you are a White Earth Tribal Member

### White Earth Nation Financial Services

PO Box 100  
Naytahwaush, MN 56566  
Phone: 1-844-282-6580  
or 218-935-2359

# Nominating Committee Report

Mahnomen, Minnesota  
January 16, 2019

The undersigned duly appointed Nominating Committee met at the Wild Rice Electric office, 502 North Main Street, Mahnomen, Minnesota on January 16, 2019, at 11:00 A.M.

Richard Zurn was duly nominated and elected Chairman and Michael Weik was duly nominated and elected Secretary of the Committee. The Committee then proceeded to make nominations and respectfully submits the following report thereof, viz:

WE, the undersigned, duly appointed Committee on Nominations by the Board of Directors of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. at a meeting duly held on January 16, 2019, hereby, respectfully nominate the following for directors in Districts 1, 2 and 3: to succeed in District 1 – David Hamre (one-year term) and Jeff Nornes (three-year term); District 2 – Greg LaVoy (three-year term); and District 3 – Gary Bergan (three-year term); whose terms expire and whose successors will be elected at the annual meeting of said Cooperative to be held on March 26, 2019, viz:

## Nominees

**District 1** (1-Year Term)  
**District 1** (3-Year Term)

David Hamre  
Jeff Nornes

**District 2** (3-Year Term)

Greg LaVoy

**District 3** (3-Year Term)

Gary Bergan  
Mike Guetter  
Jon Wiser

Respectfully Submitted,

District 1: Karl Erickson, Raymond Sundrud, Michael Weik

District 2: John Darco, Allan Haugo, Karen Lefebvre

District 3: Bradley Lindstrom, Sigurd Severinsson, Richard Zurn



### The 2019 Nominating Committee

Front (left to right): Attorney Samuel Schmitz, Karen Lefebvre, Karl Erickson and Raymond Sundrud.

Back (left to right): Richard Zurn, Bradley Lindstrom, Sigurd Severinsson, Allan Haugo, John Darco and Michael Weik.

## Statement of Secretary with Respect to Election of Directors

At the annual meeting of the Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. to be held at Mahnomen, Minnesota, on March 26, 2019, four directors are to be elected to fill the directorships now held by David Hamre (one-year term), Erskine, MN; Jeff Nornes (three-year term), Erskine MN; Greg LaVoy (three-year term), Naytahwaush, MN; and Gary Bergan, (three-year term) Hawley, MN. The following nominations have been received from the committee on nominations, viz:

**District 1** (1-Year Term) David Hamre

**District 1** (3-Year Term) Jeff Nornes

**District 2** (3-Year Term) Greg LaVoy

**District 3** (3-Year Term) Gary Bergan  
Mike Guetter  
Jon Wiser

Also, any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted.

Any member who may be absent from said annual meeting may vote by mail for directors by requesting a ballot for directors from the Secretary of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 438, Mahnomen, MN, 56557, and by marking on the ballot, an "X" opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing his name, addressed to the Secretary of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 438, Mahnomen, MN, 56557, and mailing the same in time so that it will reach the Secretary on or before, the date of the annual meeting and before the ballots for directors are collected and canvassed by the ballot inspectors.

Any provisions relating to the rights of a membership apply equally to all holders of a joint membership, specifically and without limitation: The presence at a meeting of any member constitutes the presence of all members and is a waiver of notice of the meeting, and the vote of any of those holding joint membership, separately or all, jointly constitutes one joint vote.

Dated at Mahnomen, Minnesota, January 16, 2019.

**Mark Habedank, Secretary**  
**Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Mahnomen, Minnesota 56557**



### **Rural Delight** (ISSN 0194 505X)

Published monthly by Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 438, Mahanomen, MN 56557, in the interests of its members and others. Periodical postage paid at Mahanomen and additional mailing offices. USPS 468-810. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes, Form 3579 to: Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 438, Mahanomen, MN 56557-0438. Subscription rates: Members, \$1/year; Non-members, \$2/year. Phone: 218-935-2517.

## **Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.**

*This Institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**Phone:** Serving you 24 hours a day: 800-244-5709

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Monday- Friday

**Website:**  
[www.wildriceelectric.com](http://www.wildriceelectric.com)

**Pay bill 24 hours/ 7 days  
a week:** 877-885-7968

Also download the Wild Rice Coop app for free at your App Store of choice, to monitor usage, pay your bill and more.

**Directors:**  
Gary Bergan, Mark Habedank, David Hamre, Jim Kaiser, Greg LaVoy, Jeff Nornes, Russ Okeson, Larry Sollie and Roger Winter.

## **In this issue**

- Over the Manager's Desk with Steve Haaven
- Statement of Secretary with Respect to Election of Directors
- Nominating Committee Report
- Notice of Annual Meeting
- Proof of Mailing
- Ads

